

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

NIC-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01 /100 W

----- 095091

R 141415Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7702

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0349

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: PARTY CONFERENCE AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

REF: SOFIA 0304 AND PREVIOUS

1. AS YET THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
BUT IT IS BROADLY SPECULATED THAT THE PREVIOUSLY
ANNOUNCED MARCH PARTY CONFERENCE WILL OPEN WEEK OF
MARCH 18. ALTHOUGH INTERESTING IN ITSELF, RELATED
ACTIVITIES ARE MORE INTRIGUING AND MIGHT INDICATE
A GATHERING OF INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER AND FAR
BROADER THAN A SOLELY BULGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY
MEETING AS ADVERTIZED.

2. CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AND ARMY UNITS ARE WORKING
NIGHT AND DAY IN AN EFFORT TO COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS SERVICING THE V
EHYNRMHALP#WHERE THE CONW NBR CERENENCE IS EXPECTED TO BE HELD.
THIS CONSTRUCTION
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IS TO BE COMPLETED BY MIDNIGHT MARCH 17, ACCORDING

TO REPORTS. ALL BUILDINGS ON AVENUES LEADING TO THE HALL ARE BEING SCREENED OR PAINTED, STREETS RESURFACED AND HOTELS REFURBISHED. THIS IS MORE THAN A SPRING HOUSE CLEANING.

3. AN MFA PROTOCOL OFFICER HAS INDICATED THAT HE WILL HAVE HIS HANDS FULL IN THE WEEK AHEAD. MFA PROTOCOL OFFICERS ARE NOT USUALLY USED FOR EVENTS INVOLVING ONLY BULGARIANS.

4. SURVEILLANCE CONTROL OF WESTERN MILITARY ATTACHES HAS BEEN ACUTE IN THE LAST TWO DAYS AND INVOLVED AT LEAST ONE JUNIOR OFFICER WHO HAS NOT EXPERIENCED SUCH TREATMENT BEFORE.

5. COMMENT: IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT SUCH UNUSUAL MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN IF ONLY BULGARIANS WERE ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE. IT IS OUR GUESS, AS WELL AS OTHER OBSERVERS, THAT THE CONFERENCE WILL BE ATTENDED BY HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATIONS FROM OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND MIGHT PRODUCE SOME SURPRISES.

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